U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE NRCS-CPA-53 12-02

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CONSERVATION EFFECTS BENCHMARK MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Resource Setting:

North Cropland Unit (1a) – Crop seedling establishment (annual crops) is impaired by unsheltered winds from the northwest. Soil is being deposited along the east edge of the field. Soil A is the predominate soil type with slopes that range from 0-2%. No permanent cover is present. Limited fall hunting opportunities.

Resource Concerns Before Treatment:

- Soil erosion: wind
- Animal habitat, wildlife; cover
- Soil deposition; off site damage
- Air quality; particulates (dust)
- Plant condition; plant damage (crops)

Benchmark (Present management system)

Actions - Present Management

(kinds, amounts, and timing)

- Annual crop rotation
- Spring tillage with low residue cover at planting time
- N-S row direction
- 595: 590

Effects

(Effects of continuing the benchmark system)

- Crop damage from wind erosion
- Limited fall hunting opportunities
- Dust from field blows over to headquarters area
- Wind erosion rate of 10 tons/acre/year

Comments: Discussion of other income producing ideas for this field included upland game bird hunting fees.